



# NATIONAL SHERIFFS' ASSOCIATION

February 14, 2011

The Honorable James Webb  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Senator Webb:

On behalf of the National Sheriffs' Association (NSA) and the over 3,000 elected sheriffs nationwide, I am writing to express our strong support for S. 306 – the National Criminal Justice Commission Act of 2011.

As you know, a comprehensive review of the U.S. criminal justice system has not occurred since 1965, when President Lyndon Johnson issued an executive order establishing the Commission on Law Enforcement and Administration of Justice. The results of that commission provided significant recommendations for addressing crime, the criminal justice system, and the public which were implemented and still in existence today.

However, in the last 45 years, many transformations have occurred throughout the United States and within the criminal justice system. In particular, there has been a significant shift from a solely punitive system to a move of community policing; crime prevention; rehabilitation; and reentry. Along with the shift in the criminal justice system, new federal agencies and offices have been created to address emerging issues in law enforcement, such as acts of terrorism and threats to the nation's homeland security. Given the new complexities and aspects of the criminal justice system, it is imperative that law enforcement, as well as all parties, have the tools and knowledge necessary to adapt to the continually evolving justice system.

S. 306 seeks to account for the recent developments in the criminal justice system by creating a national criminal justice commission to undertake a comprehensive review of the criminal justice system, encompassing federal, state, local, and tribal criminal justice policies and practices. Additionally, the commission will then be tasked to make reform recommendations for the President, Congress, state, local, and tribal governments.

The nation's sheriffs fully recognize the need to examine the criminal justice system to ensure a more effective and efficient system for all involved – law enforcement; courts; offenders; victims; and communities. Senator Webb, we commend your leadership on this critical issue and the National Sheriffs' Association stands ready to assist you in the passage of S. 306 – the National Criminal Justice Commission Act of 2011 during the 112<sup>th</sup> Congress.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "B.J. Roberts". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Sheriff B.J. Roberts  
President

